

(a) the number of LPG distributors of Northern States booked under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDGs) in the inspection by vigilance officers during the last three years and the action taken by the respective oil corporations;

(b) whether the action taken by the oil corporations in such cases have been audited;

(c) the details of directions passed to the concerned officials to have a check on such distributors to avoid repetition of offences; and

(d) whether such distributors shall be permitted for reconstitution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that based on the inspection carried out by Vigilance officers and review of the same by the competent authority, action has been taken against 193 LPG distributors in the Northern States during the last three years and April, 2010 to December, 2010.

(c) The officials of OMCs carry out regular inspections at the distributorships as well as random checks at distributors godowns, show-rooms and en-route to ascertain the functioning of the distributorship. Instructions are reiterated from time to time to carry out refill audits, surprise inventories and customer contact to check irregularities by the distributor. The distributors who have been cautioned are monitored regularly to prevent any irregularity in future.

(d) Reconstitution of distributorship is allowed in cases found suitable as per reconstitution policy *i.e.* death of the proprietor/partner, permanent disability, induction of new partner because of old age, resignation of existing partner etc. There is no restriction for reconstitution on account of a distributorship being booked under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). The MDG imposed on the distributorship will continue to be considered for all purposes including the collection of penalty and consequent actions. Further, a distributor which has been terminated under MDG is not allowed to be revived through the process of reconstitution.

Smart cards scheme

†729. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the main objectives and concepts of the Smart Cards Scheme of the Ministry;
- (b) the schemes being proposed and implemented on this concept;
- (c) whether such schemes would address the problems such as irrational subsidy, bad consumption and adulteration; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action plan with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) This Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to partner in the Project related to distribution of PDS Kerosene and domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) using the platform of UIDAI for better targeting of subsidy to the intended beneficiaries. Unique Identification Number (UID) with the Biometric details will help to identify and target the delivery of product only to customer or his family members without any leakages.

As per the MOU executed, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would act as registrars for the UIDAI on behalf of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the implementation of the Project. This would help in accurately identifying users and beneficiaries of the services rendered by the OMCs and have uniform standards and processes for their verification and identification. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, OMCs and UIDAI will chart out a joint road map for the implementation of the AADHAR numbers in the OMCs database.

In this regard, Government has constituted a Task Force in February, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani, Chairman, UIDAI to consider a solution for direct transfer of subsidies on PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG to the intended beneficiaries.

Nation-wide introduction of EURO-III Petrol and Diesel

730. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the commitment given by the oil PSUs about their readiness to meet the deadline of 1st April 2010 for introducing Euro-III petrol and diesel throughout the country, except 13 major cities that graduate to Euro-IV, has been fulfilled;